

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /111 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5663

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR EEC US

SUBJECT: US-EC PROTEIN MEETING

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 4638; B. STATE 157779 (NOTAL).

1. THE MISSION HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED AUGUST 13 FROM
EC COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED MEETING
BETWEEN US AND EC EXPERTS ON THE PROTEIN SITUATION.
THIS LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS:

"DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

"IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH YOU
AFTER MY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IT TURNED OUT TO BE
USEFUL TO ORGANIZE A MEETING BETWEEN THE APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND OF THE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT
SITUATION AND OF FUTURE PROSPECTS REGARDING THE SUPPLY OF
PROTEINS FOR ANIMAL FEED, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING SOYBEANS.

"I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF INFORMING YOU THAT THIS MEETING
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COULD TAKE PLACE SOME DAY DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING 17TH OF

SEPTEMBER. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE THIS MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON OR IN BRUSSELS.

"IF YOU SO DESIRE, A MEETING IN WASHINGTON COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED THOUGH I AM NOT ABLE YET TO GUARANTEE THIS."

2. SUBSEQUENTLY MICHAEL FRANKLIN TOLD US ON THE TELEPHONE THAT THE COMMISSION STILL PREFERRED TO HAVE THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19.

3. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT DURING OUR AUGUST 10 MEETING WITH FRANKLIN AND COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS ON THE US-EC PROTEIN MEETING AND OTHER SUBJECTS (REF A), LARDINOIS WAS WILLING TO HAVE THE PROTEIN MEETING IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE ABOVE LETTER INDICATES SOME HESITATION ON LARDINOIS' PART ABOUT HAVING THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN IN BRUSSELS. ROBERT COHEN OF LARDINOIS' CABINET TOLD US ON AUGUST 20 THAT AFTER OUR AUGUST 10 MEETING LARDINOIS HAD SOME "SECOND THOUGHTS" ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT COMMISSION OFFICIALS WOULD IN FACT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A WASHINGTON MEETING IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO A RASH OF OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR THAT MONTH. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE INDEFINITE LANGUAGE IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE LETTER.

4. COHEN ADVISED ALSO THAT THE COMMISSION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE A FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE MEETING BE HELD IN WASHINGTON UNTIL AFTER LARDINOIS RETURNS FROM VACATION ON OR AROUND SEPTEMBER 3. IN THE INTERIM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON RESPONDING TO LARDINOIS' LETTER, E.G. SHOULD WE FORMALLY ACCEPT MEETING FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17; ACCEPT THE 19TH; AND PERHAPS REITERATE PREFERENCE FOR WASHINGTON. WE CAN THEN REEXAMINE IN LIGHT OF LARDINOIS VIEWS ON HIS RETURN. HARTMAN

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